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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Swaziland Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

STAT

May 1988

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

C/MOD

2.

3.

C/ESG

4.

5.

C/FED

6.

7.

C/ADD

8.

9.

C/HED

10.

11.

C/Computer Operations

12.

13.

14.

15.

Retain/Destroy



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

P.O. Box 199
Mbabane, Swaziland

4 June 1988
FBIS-5810-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Swaziland Bureau--May 1988

I. GENERAL

1. An analysis of the city water in Mbabane by the State Regional Medical Officer from Pretoria showed an unacceptable level of pollution in the drinking water supply. Besides recommended boiling of water for drinking, the bureau purchased a Royal Dolton filter from a purification firm in Johannesburg and had it installed on one cold water tap in the Bureau kitchen. The embassy has also ordered water filters for all post housing.
2. The Rand continued to devalue against the dollar during May, reaching 2.25 Rand to the dollar.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. For the first time, a joint delegation of Angolans and Cubans met the South Africans under the chairmanship of the United States in London on 4 May to discuss the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and independence for Namibia. All sides offered optimistic assessments of the meetings, describing the atmosphere as "friendly" and saying that progress had been made. The head of the Cuban delegation revealed that a 4-year timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops had been discussed, but UNITA immediately rejected this as unacceptable. The second bilateral meeting between Angolan and South African delegations was held in Brazzaville on 13 May. The atmosphere of the talks was described as "frankness tempered by reasonableness."

2. SADF chief Jannie Geldenhuys and Foreign Affairs Director General Neil van Heerden held a briefing for journalists on 26 May in which they expressed the growing concern of the RSA Government with the continuing buildup of Cuban and SWAPO forces within 60 kms of the Namibian border, which they insisted "had to

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stop." Observers viewed the moves as an attempt by the Cubans to improve their position prior to the next round of talks, but RSA Defense Minister Malan hinted that the SADF would strike back in force if the talks failed. Meanwhile, UNITA stepped up their military activity in an apparent show of force prior to the next round of talks.

3. RSA Police captured three white ANC terrorists in a raid on a farmhouse near Pretoria and seized what they described as the largest single cache of weapons ever uncovered. Terrorist attacks continued during the month with five people injured in two bombings in downtown Pretoria and a third in the Johannesburg train station.

4. SAPA noted on 1 June that CP Member of the House of Assembly Chris Jacobs, speaking in the House budget debate, protested SABC showing the U.S. TV Bill Cosby Show because it brought "the message of the African National Congress into South African homes."

B. Communications

The chronic garbling caused by distortion on the incoming circuit which began in mid-April cleared inexplicably on 27 May. The bureau enjoyed the respite from communications difficulties only briefly, however. Both circuits were lost on 28 May during a thunderstorm and were not restored until the bureau opened on 31 May. Since then the circuits have been clear, but neither the bureau nor [] have been able to explain the source of the distortion or why it disappeared.

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C. Technical

1. Reception of Luanda Domestic Service, which had been unmonitorable since 28 April, improved to the usual fair to poor on 8 May. Also, Dakar PANA resumed transmissions on 10 May for the first time since 7 April, when Senegal PTT disconnected its communication links after PANA failed to pay its bills.

2. The bureau received the software and instructions for installing the Telebit Trailblazer modem from ESG and is currently attempting to ready the equipment for testing with headquarters. The first of the Comscribe printers also arrived and is being tested prior to installation in the communications section.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Portuguese Monitor Trainee submitted her resignation effective 4 June.

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2. As a result of last month's recruiting trip, the bureau has put in processing 2 candidates to fill the vacancies in the Portuguese Section. When these are on board the bureau monitorial staff will be at full strength.

B. Building and Grounds

A combination lock has been installed on the door to the bureau chief's office, and a contract has been signed to augment the burglar bars on the office windows. This will complete the bureau security upgrade program.

Chief, Swaziland Bureau

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